

# Michigan Youth Horse Racing Program



Sponsored By:  
**Michigan Department  
of Agriculture**

*...Bringing yesterdays tradition of horse racing back to our youth.*

# Michigan's Horse Racing Industry

- 7 licensed horse racing tracks
- 1.2 billion dollar industry
- 42,000 Michigan jobs
- 27 county fairs host harness racing



# Program Objectives

- Stimulate interest in Michigan Horse Racing
- Educate youth about the horse racing industry
- Enhance youth involvement with livestock



# 2005 Program Goals

- Participation from 8 county fairs in 2005
- \$25,000 sponsorship/donations
- Sponsorships used toward:
  - Safety equipment
  - Premium awards
  - Program costs
- Legislative and media attention



# Racing Specifics

- 3-5 riders per race heat
- Walking start
- Races are held on the straight away in front of the grandstand



# Certification Clinics

- Certification Clinics are held prior to the race
- Each participant and horse team must be certified
- Riders are certified on their ability to safely handle their horse



# Eligibility

- Participants must be certified
- Youth must be between 10 and 19 years of age
- Two years of riding experience required



# Required Safety Equipment



SEI approved helmets and flex rider vests are required.

Safety equipment is provided by the State.





# Youth Races

- Youth races are held at fairs throughout the state
- Winners from the youth races are eligible to participate for the Championship
- Championship races hosted at a premiere Michigan race track

